

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.



SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF

BIRTH REGISTRATION

The Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1905 enacted a law requiring every child born within the State to be registered with the Local Registrar of the district in which the birth occurred, also that the original certificate should be filed and permanently preserved in the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State Department of Health at the State Capitol.

Certified copies of these birth records may be secured at any time. Such copies are not only important but necessary for purposes of transmission to foreign countries, for establishing the age of children for school entrance, for labor certificates and many other legal formalities.

The responsibility for registering a birth is placed upon the physician or midwife in attendance at the time of birth, or if no physician or midwife is present then the duty falls upon the father or mother. If the birth occurs in an institution, the person in charge is responsible.

This law is designed to protect the civil and legal rights of your child in the years to come. It is an inheritance to which every child is entitled. It establishes for all time the identity of your child, when perhaps it can no longer appeal to its father or mother in its behalf.

See to it that your baby is properly registered. A baby that is worth having is surely worth registering. Give the baby a chance in after years to know of your interest in its future welfare. Make it possible through registration for your child to be able to show in a legal way when and where it was born and who its parents were. People nowadays register their cattle, horses, dogs, etc., because they are proud of them and because it adds to their value. Put the babies in the same class with the domestic animals and they will in the coming years do more than the animals will do—they will thank you if you are living and honor you if you are no longer with them to hear their thanks.

July 1, 1912.

Commissioner of Health.



